

THE AMERICAN VETERAN

JUNE 2007 EDITION

SEGMENT TITLE: NETHERLANDS MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

JENNIFER BRADEN, HOST: MAY 4TH IS “REMEMBRANCE DAY” FOR THE NETHERLANDS, WHERE THE DUTCH HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN COMBAT. REBA HOLLINGSWORTH TAKES US TO A SPECIAL CEREMONY PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALL FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS.

REBA HOLLINGSWORTH, REPORTER: (AS BELLS RING IN THE BACKGROUND) NEAR THE NATION’S CAPITOL, THE TOLLING OF THE BELLS SETS THE SOMBER MOOD. DUTCH FROM ALL OVER WORLD, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE U.S., PAUSE AND REMEMBER.

A BUGLER PLAYS “TAPS”

CHRISTIAAN KRÖNER, DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.: REMEMBERING IS A GOOD THING. IT’S GOOD FOR MANKIND, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU ARE REMEMBERING HEROES.

HOLLINGSWORTH: HONORING THE HEROES FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND OTHER CONFLICTS: IT’S WHAT THIS DAY IS ALL ABOUT. THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES LAYS A WREATH TO REMEMBER THOSE FALLEN HEROES. A TRADITION THAT’S BEEN AROUND FOR DECADES. HAVING THE CEREMONY HERE IN ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA IS FITTING. THIS CARILLON WAS GIVEN TO THE UNITED STATES FROM THE PEOPLE OF NETHERLANDS AS A WAY TO SAY THANK YOU FOR THE HELP THEY RECEIVED DURING WORLD WAR TWO.

KRÖNER: LIKE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, WE FELL TO THE AGGRESSION OF NAZI GERMANY AT THE TIME AND WE WERE OCCUPIED DURING THE WHOLE OF THE WAR PERIOD.

HOLLINGSWORTH: TO LOOSEN THE NAZI’S GRIP ON IT’S BORDERING NEIGHBOR, THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES FOUGHT TO HELP LIBERATE THE NETHERLANDS.

KRÖNER: IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE WAR, ASSISTED IN GETTING RID OF THE NAZI OCCUPATION.

HOLLINGSWORTH: DUTCH AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAAN KRÖNER WAS BORN RIGHT AFTER THE WAR. BUT FROM HIS DAYS AS A YOUNG BOY TO NOW, HE UNDERSTANDS THE SACRIFICE BEHIND THIS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE.

KRÖNER: NOWADAYS SOME PEOPLE TAKE FREEDOM, FOR INSTANCE, FOR GRANTED AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT IT'S NOT FOR GRANTED.

HOLLINGSWORTH: (AS CARILLON'S BELLS RING) AND FOR TWO COUNTRIES, THIS FIFTY BELL CARILLON STANDS AS A REMINDER, OF THE BATTLES OF THE PAST AND PRESENT AND THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

KRÖNER: WE ARE FIGHTING TOGETHER WITH THE AMERICANS AND OTHER ALLIES IN AFGHANISTAN AND WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION WHICH WE ARE MAKING RIGHT THERE.

HOLLINGSWORTH: ON THIS DAY, ONE BY ONE, THOSE WHO WEAR THE UNIFORM AND THE CIVILIANS, REFLECT ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY AND THEY SALUTE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.

BRADEN: THE DUTCH HAVE TWO HOLIDAYS STEMMING FROM WORLD WAR TWO: REMEMBRANCE DAY AND LIBERATION DAY. THEIR SLOGAN IS: THERE'S NO CELEBRATION WITHOUT COMMEMORATION.

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